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FURTHER OFFICIAL REACTION TO CGT STRIKE PLAN

Alfonsin Vows 'Different Ending'

PY102321 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Raul Alfonsin today noted that the government will not maintain a passive attitude toward the general strike that has been called by the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] for 25 March. He added that this measure is like an old movie picture that everyone has seen many times, but this time it will have a different ending.

Alfonsin made this statement at the Buenos Aires metropolitan airport before departing for Bariloche where he was to open a meeting to promote the preservation of the environment. This statement confirms rumors that the government will do everything it can to undermine the planned CGT strike.

It is known that at the present time, the UCR [Radical Civic Union], as a government and as a party group, is ready to undertake several initiatives that will lead to an exchange of ideas with those who promote the need for holding the stoppage in the hope of persuading the middle class not to support the strike. Rumors state that government authorities are planning to hold meetings with officials and union members of the 62 Peronist organizations who are apparently opposed to strike and who support the negotiations with authorities to seek a solution to the salary demands and the holding of a congressional debate on the national stoppage.

Sourrouille Reaffirms Strategy

PY101538 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0015 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 7 Mar (NA) -- According to reliable sources, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille today stated to the Argentine Industrial Union [UIA] that no matter how many social pressures are exercised there will be no wage increases because "the Austral Plan is immovable." Sourrouille met at noon at the Finance Ministry with UIA President Roberto Favelevic, who was accompanied by several UIA leaders including Pedro Reyna, Jeronimo Carrillo, Gilberto Montagna, Eduardo de la Fuente, Juan Sampayo, and Miguel Saiegh.

During much of the meeting, the UIA protested the high interest rates in the market. This problem was acknowledged by Sourrouille, who said that the government is very concerned over this matter. He said that despite this concern, however, there is no way to lower them for the time being.

Asked by the UIA businessmen whether he has any disagreement with Labor and Social Security Minister Hugo Barrionuevo, Sourrouille responded that there is no disagreement, attributing reports of such a disagreement to the "journalistic species."

The UIA leaders also expressed concern over Finance Secretary Mario Brodersohn's decision not to pay the petroleum companies the debts owed by the Governmental Oil Deposits [YPF]. Sourrouille said that although this is a problem, one has to take into account the difficulties of the treasury.

The UIA leaders agreed on the impossibility of granting wage increases unless they are passed along in prices, something which is not being accepted by the economic authorities. The UIA leaders yesterday held a meeting with Barrionuevo to discuss the social truce being promoted by the government through the Labor Mnistry.

PRICE HIKES ANNOUNCED FOR STAPLE PRODUCTS

PY111259 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2316 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Mar (DYN) -- The government today ordered increases ranging between 2.5 and 35 percent on some of the principal products of the family basket, which virtually means the end of a price freeze on general-store products. According to Resolution No 76 of the Foreign Trade Secretariat, coffee, prepared and marketed in various ways, will increase in price by 30 to 35 percent, compared to the maximum prices effective in June 1985 when the so-called "Austral Plan" was implemented. The increase in coffee price was authorized in two stages, namely a 20-percent increase effective from February and another 15-percent increase effective today.

Increases in the maximum retail prices, ranging between 2.5 and 5 percent, have been implemented for all pasta while crackers have been adjusted by 3 percent. The resolution states that the increase in the coffee price reflects increases in the world coffee price while the adjustments authorized for pasta and crackers are due to increases in some production costs.

TELAM BUILDING SHOT AT IN BUENOS AIRES

PY081702 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1447 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (DYN) -- Shots were fired early this morning at the facade of the building of the official TELAM NEWS AGENCY, located at 531 Bolivar Street in this capital. The shots, which were fired from a moving car, made holes in one of the windows of the building but there were no victims. Judge Miguel Angel Caminos is enquiring into licenses for carrying firearms and damage to the property.

BUILDING BOMBED AT LA PLATA UNIVERSITY

PY081721 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1658 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (NA) -- A medium-strength bomb exploded at noon today in the building of the La Plata Catholic University of this capital. There were no victims, but two offices were virtually destroyed, masonry was damaged, and an elevator fell, according to reports so far. This is the second attack this month against the building. The explosion occurred onthe fifth floor of the building. It is located at the corner of Maipu and Cordoba Streets, where Dr Nicolas Argentato, the rector of the university, has his office. At the beginning of February, a group of unknown individuals forced open the entry gate of the offices, destroying the furniture inside.

IMF APPROVES 20 FEBRUARY LETTER OF INTENT

PY120128 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1944 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (TELAM) -- The Economy Ministry officially reported this afternoon that the IMF Board of Directors approved yesterday the letter of intent submitted by the Argentine Government on 20 February, in which qualtitative goals were proposed for the first quarter of 1986. The report adds that on 14 March Argentina will receive approximately $270 million as the fourth disbursement of its standby loan.

CHANGES TO DECREE-LAW ON ECONOMIC MEASURES

PY121232 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Mar 86 p 39

[Text] The main changes to Decree-Law 2283 of 27 February, which establish the stabilization plan to drop the inflation rate to zero, are as follows:

Conversion of obligations:

The old version -- Article 9: Obligations for payments to be met in cruzeiros without a monetary correction clause contracted before this decree law will be paid in cruzados on the maturity date by dividing its value in cruzeiros by the conversion factor established in Article 8.

The new version -- Article 9: Obligations of payments to be met in cruzeiros without a monetary correction clause, or with a preestablished monetary correction clause, contracted before this decree law will be converted into cruzados on the date of payment by dividing the value in cruzeiros by the conversion factor established in Article 8.

The old version -- Article 10: Currency liabilities contracted before this date and expressed in cruzeiros with a monetary correction clause will be readjusted up to this date on the preestablished basis, and then converted into cruzados according to the rate of conversion established in Paragraph 1, Article 1, of this decree law.

The new version -- Article 10: Currency liabilities contracted before this date and expressed in cruzeiros, with a monetary correction clause, will be readjustable PRO RATA [capitalized words as published] up to this date on the preestablished basis and then converted into cruzados according to the rate of conversion established in Paragraph 1, Article 1.

Salary

The old version -- Article 23: Salaries, wages, and other remunerations in cruzados will be automatically readjusted by the accumulated Consumer Price Index [IPC] variation established by this decree law whenever this accumulated annual variation surpasses 20 percent, as of the date of the first negotiation, collective bargaining, or base-date for readjustment after the date of this decree law.

Paragraph 1. If as of this date the accumulated IPC variation exceeds 20 percent before the next negotiation, collective bargaining, or readjustment, the salary in cruzados will be readjusted accordingly and automatically. Automatic readjustments will be regarded as salary advances.

The new version -- Article 23: Salaries, wages, and other remunerations will be automatically readjusted by the accumulated IPC variation provided that this accumulation reaches 20 percent.

Paragraph 1. If as of this date the accumulated variation reaches 20 percent before the next negotiation, collective bargaining, or readjustment, the salary will be readjusted accordingly and automatically.

General Guidelines:

The old version -- Article 36, single paragraph: The freeze instituted by this article can be lifted by resolution of the executive branch, in the form established by the regulation of this decree law.

The new version -- Article 36, single paragraph: The freeze instituted by this article, at a level which for all purposes is set in the official price list, can be lifted by resolution of the executive branch in the form established by the regulation of this decree law.

Article 38: A single paragraph is included herein: Violators of the resolutions included in this decree law, in Supplementary Law No. 4 of 26 September 1962, and in Law No. 1521 of 26 December 1951 will be subjected to the loss of any fiscal incentive or of any other incentives that could have been granted to them by the federal government.

Annex II.

Calculation of salaries in cruzados for contracts concluded after September 1985.

The old version: For the calculation of the average real salary in cruzados -- including advances, bonuses, and any other similar benefits -- in individual labor contracts concluded after September 1985, multiply the current value in cruzeiros times the updating factor corresponding to the month the contract became effective. (See table, Annex III). The value to update that will result will be multiplied by the factor 0.7864. This new result will be converted into cruzados by means of the parity stipulated in Article 1, Paragraph 1.

The following is added: This formula does not apply to employers whose personnel are organized in career categories where the updating applies to their respective levels or types of salaries.

OFFICIALS RESPOND TO U.S. CALL FOR CONDEMNATION

Cauadra Defends Rights Policy

PY130219 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Minister Secretary General of Government Francisco Javier Cuadra today affirmed that ever since it made its declaration of principles, the regime has safeguarded human rights. He said that any assertion to the contrary is motivated by political interests. May we remind you that the U.S. Government requested today that the Chilean Government be condemned by the international community for its continuous violations of man's fundamental rights. Here is reporter Nely Yanez who will expand on the statement by the minister secretary general of government.

[Begin recording] [Yanez] For the first time since President Ronald Reagan assumed the presidency of the United States, the U.S. Government publicly denounced the violations of human rights in Chile and went so far as to ask the international community to condemn our country for a lack of respect for man's fundamental guarantees. The press dispatch, which caused an impact in political, diplomatic, and labor sectors, was discussed during the routine Cabinet meeting today in the La Moneda Palace. As the meeting ended, Minister Francisco Javier Cuadra was approached by the press.

[Cuadra] The foreign minister has spoken on that question in detail. We wanted to know what procedure the United Nations will now follow. This is the first stage of the whole procedure, and therefore all the resolutions adopted are only provisional. Our country has not yet been heard, and it has not yet assumed its defense. As a demonstration of international cooperation, we hope the United Nations will have the minimum degree of objectivity that is required in dealing with a matter such as this.

[Yanez] What can you say about the U.S. Government's statement that it has failed in its silent diplomacy with Chile?

[Cuadra] The information just arrived today, and we believe that it is a question of foreign policy. The foreign minister will address this statement at the appropriate time.

[Yanez] The journalist insisted to Minister Cuadra that many Chilean sectors contend that human rights are violated in Chile, despite the denials expressed by the government.

[Cuadra] We will always have sectors that are discontent with everything. We can only express our position on this matter and hope that it will be accepted. We believe that human rights have been faithfully respected. It should be recalled that since its declaration of principles as it came to power and throughout these years, since 1973, we have lived up to those principles. We are not worried about those people of bad faith, motivated by political interests. We are worried about the way the majority of the public has perceived the government's political position.

'Illegal Actions' Cited

PA122346 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The Chilean delegation at the UN in Geneva has continued to respond to those who have spoken up regarding respect for human rights in Chile. The last speaker was Patricio Dam, alternate delegate before the Human Rights Commission.

Dam conditioned future Chilean cooperation and said that Chile will not accept the suggestions made by those who have no moral qualities regarding this issue. We have more details on this matter in the upcoming report by Jose Francisco Contreras. Jose Francisco, good evening, will Chile continue to cooperate in the area of human rights?

[Contreras] Good evening. What the Chilean alternate delegate before the UN Human Rights Commission said was that Chile will cooperate with the international organizations only in those areas in which these organizations are authorized to act. To further clarify the situation, Patricio Dam added that Chile will not cooperate with illegal actions to the report on human rights in Chile presented before the UN by Fernando Volio, human rights special observer, and to the draft resolution on this issue proposed by the United States. In both cases Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle said that the two overstepped their bounds.

In his speech before the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Patricio Dam said that Chile is in the commission to cooperate with the goals of the organization; that is, to protect and promote human rights. However, Chile will never lend itself to maneuvers that are solely political. Likewise, Dam said that Chile does not accept recommendations and lessons in matters that it may consider its own responsibility. We will not take heed of suggestions made by states that lack moral authority in these areas. Without mentioning names, Dam referred to countries that have occupation troops in weaker countries, have put up walls or electric fences, or have millions of their citizens in exile.

Del Valle Raps Mexico

PA130010 Santiago Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The government has expressed hope that the United Nations will know how to maintain minimum objectivity in its statement on the human rights situation in Chile. At the end of a cabinet meeting, Francisco Cuadra, minister secretary general of government, remarked on the request the United States made to the international community to condemn the Chilean regime for its continuous human rights violations. Cuadra stressed that the UN's resolution is not final and that Chile will present its rebuttal in October.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle commented on the issue, saying that the resolution presented by the United States before the UN Human Rights Commission is less condemning, milder than others. He said that the fact that Mexico is sponsoring a condemnation against Chile like this one is contradictory.

[Begin Del Valle recording] The incredible contradiction that Mexico is sponsoring a condemnation against Chile on human rights will be thought over and answered later. It shows you how serious a protest of this nature before the Human Rights Commission can be. They could have found a person [as heard] with a more valid background on this issue than Mexico. [end recording]

He indicated, however, that Chile will continue to participate in the United Nations by using its right to respond to charges. We will issue a reply. We will see if the countries accusing us act according to the evidence that will be presented, or if these are strictly political in nature. In conclusion, Del Valle said that the result of the resolution must be examined in order to decide if it is necessary to meet with the U.S. ambassador to address the matter.

U.S. Policy Change Noted

PY130009 Paris AFP in Spanish 2336 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 12 Mar (AFP) -- The United States seems to have discontinued its quiet diplomacy in its relations with the government of General Augusto Pinochet, Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle said here today. Commenting on a draft resolution unfavorable to the Chilean regime that was sponsored by the United States at the UN Human Rights Committee meeting in Geneva, Del Valle said: We will continue with our policy, and we will prove that those points are entirely wrong.

Reports received in Chile today state that the draft resolution demands that Chile end all forms of torture; that it investigate murders, kidnappings, and other human rights violations perpetrated by security forces; that culprits be punished; and that all exiles be allowed to return. Del Valle said the Foreign Ministry is preparing a reply that will be released as soon as the U.S.-sponsored resolution is discussed at the international meeting.

He recognized, however, that this more direct U.S. action represents a change in the quiet diplomacy that was until now practiced by the Reagan administration in its contacts with the Chilean military regime. The foreign minister said: It seems that way. It is something that has been noted by the public.

The debate of the human rights commission is based on the report prepared by UN special observer Fernando Volio, a former Costa Rican foreign minister, who visited Chile last December with the Chilean Government's authorization.

Del Valle on 'Information Errors'

PA130116 Santiago Television Network in Spanish 0039 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle said today that Chile will answer a series of information errors recorded at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva opportunely.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The secretary of state [title as heard] declined to comment on the statements made by U.S. delegate Richard Chiefter with regard to human rights in Chile. He said that the matter must not be addressed hastily and that the government will issue a reply to the unfavorable vote presented by the United States against Chile.

[Del Valle] I believe there have been a series of outright information errors, like those in which other ambassadors who spoke during this morning's meeting made. Some downright foolishnesses have been expressed by them. We will reply opportunely.

[Reporter] Meanwhile, Del Valle acknowledged that recently a change in the U.S. Government's policy toward Chile has been observed. In the past that policy was characterized by the so-called silent diplomacy. He said Chile will not modify its policy and will maintain its traditionally friendly relations with the United States.

[Del Valle] We will continue to implement our policy. We will also speak and make them see those points where we find serious mistakes and see how the U.S. Government's current policy is seriously damaging the United States' interests. [end recording]

SABOTAGE CAUSES POWER OUTAGE IN CENTRAL REGION

PY111525 Paris AFP in Spanish 1219 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 11 Mar (AFP) -- According to police reports, Santiago and a vast area of central Chile, extending some 600 km, today were without electricity due to an act of sabotage. The power outage started at 0645 (1045 GMT) and affected the area between Coquimbo in the north and Rancagua in the south. The outage in Santiago affected metropolitan railway service, hospitals, traffic lights, and main services.

According to an unofficial source, it was caused by the knocking down of a high-tension pylon in the mountain range area south of Santiago, near Puente Alto city. No organization has claimed responsibility for the attack, which followed a wave of incendiary attacks against public transport buses and dynamite explosions on the streets and in schools yesterday. Similar attacks perpetrated in the past have been claimed by the proscribed Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], which has been termed by President Augusto Pinochet's military government as the armed branch of the Communist Party.

FPMR Claims Responsibility

PY112233 Paris AFP in Spanish 1429 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 11 Mar (AFP) -- An FPMR spokesman has reported to the media that his organization is responsible for the two attacks that caused a power outage today in Santiago and a vast area of Chile. This action marks the beginning of an all-out campaign which will continue until finishing Pinochet's dictatorship, the FPMR spokesman said, adding that more attacks will be perpetrated during the day to spoil the government's celebrations of the anniversary of its illegitimate Constitution. The Constitution, which is of authoritarian and anti-Marxist character and enables Pinochet to remain in power at least until 1989, is celebrating its sixth anniversary after being approved by a plebiscite that the opposition considered fixed. According to official reports, Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia will deliver a speech about the transition to democracy at the main commemoration ceremony.

The attacks claimed to have been committed by the FPMR damaged two high-tension pylons in the Andes mountains 50 km south of Santiago and two others on the road between the capital and the port of Valparaiso, police sources reported. The outage occurred at 0645 (1054 GMT) and affected the 4.5 million inhabitants of Santiago and the cities and towns located between Coquimbo, in the north, and Rancagua in the south, along a 600 km extension. Railway service was interrupted, hospitals experienced difficulties, and essential services and street lights were cut until the electricity companies slowly reestablished the power supply. By 1000 (1400 GMT) Santiago had almost completely resumed its normal rhythm except for some neighborhoods in the suburbs.

On the eve of the new school year for 3.5 million children, Santiago faced a wave of attacks against public transportation buses and schools throughout the country. On that day the education minister denounced the existence of plan to involve the students with street violence.

7 BOMB ATTACKS REPORTED AROUND SANTIAGO

PY112231 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Police have reported that seven bomb attacks have been perpetrated in the past few hours in Santiago. A bomb went off in the education and health offices of the (Renca) City Hall building at 2300 last night, causing considerable damage. Thirty-five minutes later, a bomb went off at the La Granja Civil Registry building causing minor damage to the building's structure and to the windows. At 0045, another bomb exploded at the San Miguel Municipal Auditorium, causing substantial damage to the roof, windows, and to the sports council's office. Jose Jara Benegas, the guard on duty in the building, suffered a slight ear injury.

Later, an electric transformer on Cordillera de los Andes Street was destroyed, but electric service was not interrupted. At 0115, a bus stop at the corner of Las Industrias and (Sevastopol) Streets was bombed, resulting in minor damage. Finally, a phone booth in the Maipu District and an office of the National Youth Secretariat at 150, 5 de Abril Street were also bombed.

PINOCHET, ARCHBISHOP DISCUSS POPE'S VISIT

PY111727 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Pope John Paul II's upcoming visit to Chile was the main subject discussed during the meeting held by President Augusto Pinochet with Santiago Archbishop Msgr Francisco Fresno. The meeting was held at La Moneda Palace and was also attended by Interior Minister Ricardo Garcia, Minister Secretary General of the Government Francisco Cuadra, and Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle, as well as Santiago Auxiliary Bishop Msgr (Sergio Vallech) and Military Vicar Msgr (Joaquin Mate). The meeting, that was conducted within a very cordial atmosphere, lasted an hour and a half.

Cardinal Juan Franciso Fresno talked to journalists about the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Fresno] It was a courtesy invitation extended by the president to join him for a cup of tea and chat about developments during the summer holdiay season and especially about the visit the Holy Father will make to Chile. [end recording]

Msgr Fresno was asked his opinion on the current situation of the church-government relations. In this regard he said that when one is invited for tea this shows a desire to maintain a good relationship.

BAIL SET FOR OPPOSITION ACTIVIST PALMA

PY111829 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Trial Judge Sergio Mery has ordered the release on bail of Andres Palma, president of the Christian Democratic Youth. Palma's release is subject to the prior approval of the appellate court and the payment of 5,000 pesos bail. Palma has been held under arrest at the Capucino prison annex since 18 February when he was indicted, charged with violating the internal security law.

PINOCHET SAYS ARMS AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT SALES

PY111449 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Augusto Pinochet has said that Chile is in a position to sell arms. The president made this statement in response to a question by a journalist who noted that various types of arms are being manufactured in Chile. The chief of state discussed this subject with journalists at the end of his lengthy visit to the International Air Fair, FIDA 86, which he officially inaugurated.

HOY EXAMINES PHILIPPINE, HAITIAN REVOLTS

PY080207 Santiago HOY in Spanish 3-4 Mar 86 p 5

[By Ascanio Cavallo]

[Excerpts] Despite the distance, there are many reasons why the Philippines have recently occupied the center of the Chilean political stage. Last week, all the government officials who spoke to HOY said that the fast-developing politico-military crisis in the Philippines had been closely followed at the highest levels of the regime. One of them noted that President Pinochet had been "very interested" in the details of the situation in Manila.

However, the most important fact was not the unusual amount of interest shown in following the news but the conclusions and commentaries that were circulating in La Moneda Palace toward the end of the week.

The first conclusion is negative: The conviction prevails that the Chilean situation, particularly the existing correlation of forces, cannot be compared to the situation in the Philippines, and even less to the situation in Haiti. Incidentally, the South Korean government quickly reacted by warning the opposition not to make the mistake of resorting to the Philippine method.

The collapse of the Duvalier dynasty and the deterioration of Marcos' power, however, have a common origin. An Interior Ministry official pointed out that "in both cases, the United States played a destabilizing role after a long period of exerting pressures through diplomatic channels." For the Chilean Government, the two crises, especially the Philippine crisis, showed that U.S. policy is indecisive, even toward its strategic allies, not always taking into account future consequences. As these government officials see it, what is happening in Haiti -- continued looting and disturbances -- may yet happen in the Philippines, and will be "very important" in determining how correct the Reagan administration decisions were. La Moneda officials agree that "the U.S. political intromission" at the highest levels of the Armed Forces was one of the "disturbing" factors in the cases of Haiti and the Philippines.

That the maximum pressure was applied by Washington at the moment of internal social convulsions -- in the middle of the protests in Haiti and the military uprising in the Philippines -- is considered "a bad example." One of the sources said: "This can nurture false hopes among opposition groups that believe street disorders and violence can tip the political balance in their favor. The United States contradicts itself when it disapproves of 'social mobilization' in one part of the world, and then it takes advantage of mobilization to destabilize friendly regimes in other parts of the world."

The Chilean Foreign Ministry, however, seems convinced that the Reagan administration will now concentrate its efforts on regimes it considers "hostile," like Nicaragua, for instance. (Nevertheless, when HOY talked with Foreign Ministry officials about the Haitian crisis 2 weeks ago, the government was convinced that the Philippine situation would not break down, precisely because the United States could not hit two "friendly" regimes at the same time. In fact, the Foreign Ministry waited until the departure of Marcos was confirmed to recognize that the situation in Manila was "newsworthy.")

A declaration by Ronald Reagan on 27 February confirmed the government officials' evaluation, but introduced a new element in the definition of U.S. policy: namely, the choice between dictatorship and democracy. Reagan said: "We were on the side of democracy in the Philippines, and we have to be on the side of democracy in Nicaragua, in Central America, and in our own hemisphere."

Other government circles believe that an additional negative aspect in the collapse of Marcos is the fact that it came on the heels of an electoral process. Analysts close to La Moneda Palace say that "the credibility of plebiscites or elections under authoritarian regimes is undermined, and this can encourage the not-always-correct notion that a well-mounted campaign of denunciations may cause the breakdown of a government."

Some sources contend that these events should force a review of the proposition being made by some sectors of the executive branch, that "trial" plebiscites on minor issues should be held before 1989.

Although the review of what was only a working hypothesis until last week might be in order, few within the regime believe that the events in Haiti and the Philippines will induce the executive branch to modify its plans and outlook for the best of the year. An official said: "Only the enthusiasm of the opposition with social mobilization can make things different, forcing the adoption of somewhat harder measures."

The government is wary of the possible interference of the church with its strategy for March, and so it is closely following the steps of the Episcopal Conference and Cardinal Juan Francisco Fresno. By the way, the "Philippine syndrome" is also noted in this regard, because the church's intervention was no less important than the role played by the U.S. Government and the mobilization of the people in the Philippine outcome.

BRIEFS

NEW BRIGADE COMMANDER -- Iquique General Enrique Fernandez Cortes has assumed his post as commander of the First Air Force Brigade, replacing General Fernando Silva Corvalan, who has been appointed inspector general of the Chilean Air Force. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 Mar 86 p C5 PY]

ELN SETS FIRE TO HELICOPTER, KIDNAPS FRG ENGINEER

PA122047 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2002 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Bogota, 12 Mar (EFE) -- The Army of National Liberation (ELN) in Colombia has set fire to a helicopter and kidnapped a German engineer. Bogota police said that the guerrillas fled to the country's east after they set fire to a helicopter of the enterprise Aeroexpresos Bogota in Panama de Mita, 400 km east of the capital.

The police added that after setting fire to the helicopter, worth $80,000, the ELN kidnapped German citizen Johann Tibuck. Luis Prieto, the helicopter pilot and a retired commander, was unharmed.

The German engineer, who worked for Compania Colombiana de Construcciones, Colescon, was forced to accompany the rebels to an unidentified location. According to the police, reinforcements were sent to the Savarena area in an effort to rescue the kidnapped engineer.

American Abducted

PA130102 Paris AFP in Spanish 2339 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Bogota, 12 Mar (AFP) -- Hans Fischborn, an American oil engineer, was captured by guerrillas in eastern Colombia today, according to press reports as yet unconfirmed by official media. During the action, staged by presumed members of the National Liberation Army (pro-Castro ELN), the helicopter in which the American specialist was travelling was set afire.

The attack took place in Petaca, near Saravena, in the Province of Arauca, which is on the Venezuelan border. The report was made by the helicopter's pilot, who was released by the extremists, the sources indicated. It is noteworthy to recall that over the past several months the ELN and the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have staged attacks against foreign oil companies in that region.

QUINTIN LAME GROUP BREAKS AWAY FROM M-19

PA121317 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Popayan -- The Quintin Lame, a pro-Indian group, officially announced yesterday that it is breaking away from the general leadership of the leftist 19 April Movement [M-19] and that it is considering withdrawal from the so-called National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNG) because it has declared a war to the death to seize power, without any grounds.

GOVERNMENT REGROUPS AFTER VARGAS INCIDENT

President Denies Negotiating

PA122250 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2131 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 12 Mar (EFE) -- Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero today stressed that no compromise, negotiation, or agreement was made with General Frank Vargas for him to put aside his rebellious attitude. According to a statement made by the president during a news conference in Guayaquil, the rebellion ended when Vargas put aside his attitude, gave up Manta Air Force base, where he had entrenched himself for 5 days, and gave himself up to the president of the Republic.

Febres Cordero mentioned the statements made by Vargas, amply covered by the press, when he surrendered Manta Air Force base, regarding the appointment of an honor court and the removal of Defense Minister General Luis Pineiros. Febres Cordero said that "the statements made by Vargas during the surrender of the Air Force base are far from the truth." Regarding the honor court which is headed by General Jorge Andrade and composed of six high-ranking memebers of the three branches of the Armed Forces, the president said that this honor court will be responsible for supervising the process against Vargas. Vargas, President Febres Cordero said, will be tried according to military law and will remain under arrest while the hearings are underway at the Mariscal Sucre Air Force Base in Quito.

Regarding the resignation of Minister Pineiros, the man Vargas accused of economic corruption, the charge that unleashed the conflict, Febres said that there had been no negotiations but rather a patriotic action on the part of the minister, who presented his resignation. In his last statement before placing himself at the orders of the president and arriving in Quito to be placed under military arrest, Gen Vargas not only spoke of the honor court, but also called on the people of Ecuador to supervise the process against him. When stressing these issues, President Febres Cordero mentioned his duty to uphold the Constitution and the laws, "from which the order and peace that the country desperately needs at this moment are born."

'Ordinary' Court To Convene

PA130058 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Lt Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos will be tried by an ordinary court, not by a court of honor, President Leon Febres Cordero has said. He stressed that the incidents which began last Friday were not merely a simple insurrection but a political conspiracy, adding that under no circumstances has the defense minister's post been subject to negotiation. Febres Cordero said that General Pineiro's resignation was not the result of negotiations, but due to the sensibleness of the former government official, who submitted his resignation. In his statement, Febres Cordero also noted that only now that the military conflict is over will be consider Gen Luis Pineiro's resignation.

Regarding Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos, who was discharged from the FAE [Ecuadoran Air Force], Febres Cordero said that he will be judged strictly according to the law, adding that statements by Vargas Pazzos on his departure from the Manta air base were not consonant with reality.

[Begin Febres Cordero recording, in progress]...of the country, you can be sure that during the disturbing chapter we have just gone through, the president of the Republic has maintained the most prudent silence, in order not to encourage or contribute to the unrest that undoubtedly existed throughout the country. I am a man of honor. I am a man who complies with his oath of respecting and guaranteeing respect for the Constitution and laws of the Republic, because only by so doing will peace and order prevail in the country. I also want to make it clear that some press reports are not based on facts. Things have been [words indistinct] and so have been the results, which the country will learn of now, directly from the president of the Republic.

Talks were held yesterday afternoon with Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos through the governor of the Guayas Province, who is also private secretary of the presidency. Prior to meeting with Gen Vargas Pazzos, Vargas Pazzos, on his own initiative, apologized for his attitude. It was established that there had been no commitment, negotiation, or agreement. It was established that Gen Vargas decided to change his attitude of insubordination and rebellion. Second, Gen Vargas was surrendering the base to pertinent military authorities.

Third, Gen Vargas placed himself at the orders -- as outlined in the military laws -- of the constitutional president of the Republic, so that through a court of honor that I had composed of high officers of the Armed Forces, this court of honor would [words indistinct] at the Quito air base, where he would remain as long as necessary throughout his judicial-military trial. This court of honor, in addition to serving as a mechanism to deliver Gen Vargas to the air base, would supervise the process. I had told Gen Vargas this, [words indistinct] would supervise the purity of the judicial-military trial, so that the court that will judge him according to common military laws -- not the court of honor, but the court established by the common military laws -- may proceed as it must, strictly according to the law and impart justice, the most absolute justice. [end recording]

Pineiros 'On Leave'

PA130249 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0218 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Quito, 12 Mar (EFE) -- General Luis Pineiros said today that he continues to be the country's defense minister and that he is currently on leave from this office. During a news conference at his home, Gen Pineiros said that on Monday he presented his resignation to President Leon Febres Cordero and added: "I had always kept in mind that a public office is a temporary job, knowing that I could leave it at any moment." "The president has not decided on my resignation; therefore, I continue to be the minister, and I am currently on leave," the general said.

Gen Pineiros added that he had given the Office of the Comptroller all the documents on the purchase of airplanes for a domestic airline that is run by the Air Force. Vargas has presented charges of corruption in regard to this purchase.

Radio Quito has reported that the National Chamber of Representative's progressive bloc has decided to ask Chamber President Averroes Bucarem to convoke an extraordinary period of sessions to study the charges against the military hierarchy and carry out the necessary investigations.

Adviser Defends Pineiros

PA121552 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpt] In view of the serious charges leveled by Lt Gen Frank Vargas Pazzos against former Defense Minister Gen Luis Pineiros regarding the purchase of the Fokker plane for TAME [Ecuadoran Military Air Transport], Dr Arturo Viscaino Sotomayor, National Defense Ministry legal adviser, defended Pineiros:

[Begin recording] The defense minister is not concealing anything. (?I respect) him. I have no kinship to him. As legal adviser of this ministry I handled part of the negotiations for the purchase of the Fokker plane. I want to tell all of you publicly, with the honesty that has characterized the Luis Pineiro administration, that Vargas was the one who purchased the Fokker plane.

He sent a memorandum to the company with a letter voicing the intention to buy it. Gentlemen, he sent a memorandum that was not authorized by the defense minister. He sent a note to the Presidency of the Republic demanding the purchase of the Fokker plane. He signed a document with the secretary general of the administration, the finance minister, and the manager of [word indistinct] assuming his responsibility in the purchase of the Fokker plane.

And now, gentlemen, he says that there is bribery. Yes sir, there is confirmed bribery. I hold receipts from Gen Vargas, rather from one of his subordinates, namely economist Florencio Ruiz, an aviation lieutenant and disbursement officer, for the amount of $50,000, payable to the Club of Aerotechnicians and $200,000 payable to the Club of [word indistinct] Officers as a donation requested and demanded by Gen Vargas in order to allow the purchase of the Fokker plane. [end recording]

BRIEFS

REFINANCING AGREEMENT WITH SWITZERLAND -- Finance and Public Credit Minister Francisco Swett has signed a bilateral agreement with Switzerland within the framework of the (?refinancing) of the Ecuadoran foreign debt with the Paris Club. The transaction involved 13 million Swiss francs and, Swett said, is another step in the progressive normalization of the financial relations between Ecuador and the international financial community. The amortization of the 13 million will begin on 1 January 1988 and will last until 30 June 1995, Swett added, emphasizing that by normalizing our financial relations, our country has been able to obtain the best terms as far as interest rates are concerned. [Excerpt] [Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Mar 86 PA]

EL PUEBLO CRITICIZES REAGAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

PY120220 Asuncion EL PUEBLO in Spanish 26 Feb 86 p 7

[By Gustavo Garcia]

[Text] Unbelievable contradictions in the foreign policy of Ronald Reagan, the smiling man past his seventies, were observed last week. While the Yankee ambassadors before Stroessner and Pinochet carry out instructions to break the "silent diplomacy," much to the discomfort of the Paraguayan and Chilean official circles, the chief of the White House delivered three hard blows below the belt to all the democrats and non-interventionists of the world. Only as such can we describe the blows that the aggressive Reagan has delivered to Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Grenada to create a protracted climate of belligerence in those regions. Consequently, these regions will suffer the irreparable losses of human lives, and moral and material benefits that have been arduously gained.

The Northern power does not mind truncating revolutionary expectations like those of Nicaragua, where a reformist-developmentalist experiment to extend the benefits of economic and social democracy to the majority of the people is taking place; or like those in the Philippines where the experiment stood on the threshold of a formalist transition to democracy, to a democracy of peace without the unnecessary victims of the continuation of the corrupt and mentally-paralyzed Marcos dictatorship would cause.

Reagan's visit to Grenada brought to mind his dangerous messianic pretension of becoming a twentieth-centruy Atilla, some sort of scourge of God. The difference is that the Hun did not believe he was God, but this cowboy, meek in movies and ferocious in actual life, believes he is God.

The resurrection of the Manifest Destiny philosophy -- if it had ever died -- and its corresponding practical policy of the big stick should move the social, political, economic, and progressive military forces in the "backyard" of the U.S. foreign policy, as Latin America is known, to serious reconsideration. The urgent prescription for the redemocratization of some Central and South American countries is no more than a political expedient to halt or delay the irrepressible social stirrings in some areas of the continent. The prescription cannot be limited to liberal policies, because just as no one wants "freedom without bread," neither do they want "bread without freedom." No one. Only the elite are satisfied with the extremes.

The struggle is now to achieve a synthesis of bread and freedom. This is an old but not utopian struggle, and Reagan knows it well. However, it so happens that Reagan is the spokesman for (or the prisoner of) powerful U.S. economic interests, which close the door on our products while selling us arms to keep us weak and divided in order to consolidate their hegemony. The deplorable Grenadian Trotskyists killed Maurice Bishop and opened the door to the Yankee intervention that was boastfully and lugubriously commemorated 3 years later.

Reagan's negative neutrality only serves to internationally strengthen the perseverant Cory Aquino. The Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group are firm in their noninterventionist attitude; and the Nicaragua of Sandino, although it has the ability to counterstrike, does not want to be the target of a strike, because its people are tired of turning the other cheek.

'VOICE OF COLORADO' CRITICIZES AMBASSADOR TAYLOR

PY110300 Asuncion Domestic Service in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Mar 86

[From the "Voice of the Colorado Party" program]

[Text] As the saying goes, whoever peeps through a keyhole frequently sees what he should not see. However, in this case we believe that it would be good and even advantageous for U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor to peep through the keyhole and read page 7 of the 26 February issue of the weekly EL PUEBLO. On that page, the Febrerista Party [PRF] mouthpiece referred to U.S. President Ronald Reagan with coarse and strong words. This will teach the ambassador who is who in our country. He will thus be able to identify those who are false and hypocritical, those who promote intrigue, and those who use flattery for personal gain. He should not forget that the famous slogan: Yankees out, Yankees go home [preceding phrase in English], used by the leftists in several parts of the world was seen at the minimeeting at Plaza Italia.

The members of the Febrerista Party, the same people who on 3 January stood up to welcome and applaud Ambassador Taylor at their party headquarters, and who dedicated on the center page of their paper an eight-column headline and the most laudatory remarks have now taken a completely opposite stand, in less than 56 days. In effect, they have disrespectfully used the strongest words to refer to President Reagan.

Mr Taylor: The Febrerista Party members, who yesterday claimed that you are the best ambassador in the world and that your country, the United States, is the best nation on earth, are today referring to your president as a fictional, neutronic cowboy, a ferocious cowboy, a messianic Attila of the 20th Century, a scourge of God, an aggressive president who causes the loss of lives and moral values, a man who strikes low blows at democracy, a missionary of economic interests who tries to divide and weaken the world, and sponsor of the deplorable Grenadian (?Trotskyists) who killed Maurice Bishop.

Ambassador Taylor: What do you think about all this? This is by no means slight, right? Bear in mind that it is the same people who on 3 January, that is, 56 days before the publication of the disrespectful article on U.S. President Ronald Reagan, praised you and almost sanctified you just because you visited them and listened to them. That was a serious diplomatic mistake. You should have recieved them at the embassy, you should not have certified the so-called National Accord with your presence at their headquarters.

In due time we told you, Mr Ambassador, that it is not possible to deal with snakes, because in the long run they will betray and bite you. Here is the evidence. It is not our invention. Neither is it the product of our imagination. What we have said is on page 7 of the 26 February issue of the weekly EL PUEBLO, where the Febreristas, after removing the mask with which they deceived you, ignominiously attack the president of the United States with typically Marxist language.

We would like to know now, Ambassador Taylor, what kind of information you will get from these hypocrites, these interested, false gossip-mongers who used you and your embassy as a vile forum from which they could appear with a representativity they neither have or deserve, because they are political nobodies. Practically, Mr Ambassador, they treated you as a fool, who at the time lent himself to a farce that benefitted them with gratuitous publicity, and left you, the representative of the leading nation of the free world and first power, as dirty as a chicken perch. They made you look like a very naive ambassador, which undoubtedly you are not. You perhaps had the best intentions, but wolves are still wolves even if you pull out their teeth.

The representatives of the illegal groups are avowed communists, some of them, and others instruments of the communists. In this instance, they disguised themselves as pseudodemocrats of the opposition, purportedly persecuted by the government, and lied to you from beginning to end. Having succeeded in their purpose, they now attack you, your President, and your country, with their native strategy and communist artillery by insulting President Reagan, referring pejoratively to him as the Yankee actor, accusing him of being a puppet and even of being the mastermind of crimes against the Latin American peoples. This is a bitter lesson for Ambassador Taylor who innocently fell into a trap from which it will be difficult to extricate himself.

The question is now how to justify with his own President why he got mixed up with members of the illegal parties who feigned friendship and then turned enemies. His experience as a policeman or investigator did not help him. He was stupidly and naively caught and used as a kitchen towel that is thrown in the garbage can once it is no longer needed.

Ambassador Taylor, please, do not get mad at us. What we are saying we say with the good intention of warning you to avoid getting mixed up with despicable individuals in the future, because they can only have a negative effect on your important diplomatic mission in Paraguay. Be careful to whom you extend your hand in the future, because this time you got it right back in your face. You have to learn: Those who sleep with dogs get up with fleas. Mr. Ambassador, please, read EL PUEBLO, 26 February 1986, page 7, and you will see that we are right.

PATRIA Scores Ambassador

PY121839 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 12 Mar 86 pp 12, 13

[Humberto Velazquez commentary: "Did you Take Note, Mr Taylor?"]

[Text] Through remarks U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor made we became aware that he is interested in thoroughly learning about our country's reality, including, of course, the political aspect.

For this reason he visited the legally constituted parties, and even the irregular and ostracized ones.

The one that benefits most from Mr Taylor's curiosity was the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF], an appendix of the Socialist International.

Very well, the PRF leaders probably told the U.S. ambassador that the Febrerista Party is the institution that established the Nazi-fascist totalitarianism in Paraguay on 10 March 1936, through Decree 152 of the executive branch headed by Colonel Rafael Franco, the founding father of the PRF.

We also believe that on that occasion the PRF leaders must have told Mr Taylor that, in an open turnabout, the PRF turned from Nazi-fascism to the extreme left, and in 1947 it joined the Communist Party of Paraguay to try and seize political power through a fratricidal revolution, but it was unmercilessly defeated by the Colorado Party and the loyal sector of the Armed Forces.

Now that we know that the representative of the great northern nation is very busy in his information-gathering and in meetings at which prizes are given, we ask him to carefully read page 7 of the newspaper EL PUEBLO, the mouthpiece of the PRF, of 26 February 1986.

There, Mr Ambassador, you will find that the PRF is the traveling companion of the communists, because, in addition to the miserable treatment it gives to the U.S. President, whom you represent, and whom EL PUEBLO calls a "neutronic cowboy," it repudiates the intervention of his government in favor of those who struggle for the recovery of the self-determination of the Nicaraguan people. In that article, the Febreristas openly and categorically defended the communist government of Daniel Ortega and condemned "Yankee intervention." (sic) They also expressed their indignation and rage over President Reagan's visit to Grenada. In this regard, they said:

"Reagan's visit to Grenada brought to mind its dangerous messianic pretension of becoming a twentieth century Attila, some sort of scourge of God. The difference is that the Hun did not believe he was God, but this cowboy, meek in movies and ferocious in actual life, believes he is God."

Isn't this good treatment, Mr Ambassador, for the President of the United States of America, the leader of the free nations? But, notwithstanding the damage caused to the chief of a friendly government, what matters is the PRF's disapproval of the fact that Grenada's fall under the menacing communist totalitarianism was avoided. Thus, Mr Taylor, you can put two and two together regarding the "democrat" Febreristas who, we are certain, must have reaffirmed to the ambassador their "libertarian" spirit when in fact they are rabidly totalitarian.

If communist Cuba and Nicaragua are the consequences of the gross and very serious mistakes made by the U.S. State Department, this is an opportunity to amend this conduct, if in fact there is some thought and the firm desire to prevent communist totalitarianism, cherished by the "useful idiots," according to the correct expression of a Chinese communist strategist, from expanding its power in other nations of the continent. Here in Paraguay, fortunately, both the Colorado Party, the authentic expression of the representative, republican, and pluralist democracy, and the constitutional government, which has emerged from its ranks, will never give up their historical commitment of being irreducibly anticommunist and the intransigent defender of our free and Christian form of life.

AMBASSADOR TO FRG CRITICIZES REPORTERS

PY082050 Paris AFP in Spanish 0401 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Asuncion, 7 Mar (AFP) -- Victor Godoy Figueredo, Paraguayan ambassador to the FRG, harshly criticized six Paraguayan newsmen touring that European country who reported the deterioration of freedom of the press in Paraguay. In a letter which embassy officials gave to the reporters before they left Bonn for Munich, Godoy accused the professionals of launching groundless reports and dramatic exaggerations about reality in Paraguay.

Humberto Rubin, manager of Radio Nanduti, made the contents of the letter public in a phone call to his listeners from that European country. Rubin went to the FRG at the invitation of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation together with Ilde Silvero, director of the Catholic Church newspaper Sendero; Fernando Cazenave, staff member of the daily ULTIMA HORA; Ernesto Garcia, recently dismissed from his position as director of the TV newscast HORA 20; Alcibiades Gonzalez, reporter of the closed newspaper ABC, and Fernando Talavera from UPI. The ambassador remarked that the Paraguayan newsmen have harmed the image of the country through their statements in the FRG. He said: I am forced to remind them that every good Paraguayan citizen must contribute to the prosperity and peace of our beloved fatherland.

NATIONWIDE STRIKE BEGINS, WAGE INCREASE DEMANDED

PA121427 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0857 GMT 12 Mar 86

[By Sixto Martinez]

[Text] Montevideo, 12 Mar (EFE) -- Uruguay began today a nationwide 24-hour strike at 0000 (0300 GMT) convoked by the main labor union central, demanding mainly a wage increase of 30 percent.

The Interunion Plenary-National Convention of Workers (PIT-CNT) is also demanding a meeting of the Councils of Wages and the "solution to all the labor conflicts," in addition to other political demands.

Newspapers were not published today in Montevideo, and some radio stations are operating with emergency staff.

As for the city transportation sector, which is considered decisive for the success of the strike, some enterprises have announced that special vehicles will be circulating with special staffing to ensure some service.

It is expected that bank employees, who have been very aggressive in recent months, will join the strike as of 1300 (1600 GMT) when the banks are scheduled to open. Public employees are also expected to join the strike.

The strike will also affect the "Carrasco" Airport in Montevideo, international land transportation, the university, and hospitals -- where only emergency cases will be treated.

Approximately 60 union activists who were painting slogans supporting the strike were arrested yesterday, Tuesday, by the police in Montevideo and other cities in the interior, but later released.

This is the second nationwide strike convoked by the PIT-CNT since Constitutional President Julio Maria Sanguinetti took over on 1 March 1985, after 12 years of a military regime.

The last strike occurred on 19 September, although some 12,000 partial labor conflicts have taken place during this first year of the constitutional government.

The confrontation between the unions and the government worsened when authorities ordered an 18-percent wage increase as of 1 February, without convoking a meeting of the Councils of Wages.

The councils -- in which the administration, labor unions, and businessmen are represented -- decided at that time that there should be a trilateral negotiation for the wage increases and the recovery of the salary according to the inflation rate.

In its document calling for the current strike, the PIT-CNT criticizes the government's educational reform and rejects the regulations of unions, the "disbanding and rendering private (privatizacion)" of the state autonomous entities and the "continuity" of the government.

It also demands the "disbanding of the repressive apparatus," an explanation of the whereabouts of missing persons, and civilian trials "for the military men responsible for crimes against mankind."

Other requests of the central union include a national health service, distribution of the Central Bank land to the land tenants, and "pardoning the debts of the small and medium-sized farmers."

The government said that, although the gross domestic product remains stagnant, the real wage recovery amounted to 12.6 percent last year.

With a population of barely 3 million people, Uruguay owes the international banks about $5.5 billion.

The strike is taking place when the parties represented in Congress -- the Colorado Party, the National Party, the leftist coalition of the Broad Front and the Civic Union -- are negotiating a 3-year agreement that will promote economic recovery.

In recent statements to EFE, President Julio Maria Sanguinetti criticized the "excessive labor union conflicts" during his first year in office, and said that "the labor union movement should cooperate, otherwise it will be the first victim of its own mistakes."

Minister Sees No Point

PY121809 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Uruguayan Labor and Social Welfare Minister Hugo Fernandez Faingold yesterday stated that it is difficult for him to see the point of the workers' strike. He said that he would not oppose a strike if the institutions were being jeopardized. Fernandez went on to say that between 350 and 400 million Uruguayan pesos will not flow into the market as a result of the strike, and he reaffirmed his opinion that the workers' demands are strictly political. This is what he said:

[Begin recording] One can approach this matter from several viewpoints. Mine is that first of all it is very difficult to see the point of this strike under the present circumstances.

Recently I have made several comments on the overall circumstances surrounding the workers' situation in the country, and if we take a close look at these circumstances, we will find that there has been an improvement over past years. The time and wages lost to strikes this month are no more than 10 percent of what was lost in the same month last year.

We are currently engaged in a significant discussion on labor relations and essential laws, such as the law on wage boards and collective bargaining. The strikes this ministry is having to deal with are unusual, exceptional strikes that are practically always caused by lack of common sense in one of the parties involved and not by the usual reasons. The "normal" strikes are being taken care of well enough at the ministry, and most of them are being resolved before they take place.

All this means that there is a relaxation, a movement toward normalcy. Under these circumstances, this strike is (?out of place). This is my first impression, as I have told you.

My second thought is that I find it difficult to understand what will be accomplished through all this, because one thing is a loss of 150,000 to 160,000 Uruguayan pesos and quite a different one is 350 to 400 million pesos that are taken out of the salaries and wages and do not flow into the market. And for what? The day after tomorrow, after the strike is over, nothing will have changed. [end recording]

AGREEMENT REACHED ON MEETINGS WITH GUATEMALA

First Meeting in Mexico

FL112206 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2110 GMT 11 Mar 86

[By Juan Guadenzi]

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 11 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- It has been officially announced that the congresses of Guatemala and Mexico agreed here today to hold an annual reciprocal interparliamentary meeting in each country.

The document was signed this noon by Antonio Riva Palacio, president of Mexican Senate's Grand Commission, and Luis Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, president of the Guatemalan Congress. The two legislators head parliamentary delegations that held a series of meetings yesterday and today in Mexico City.

The two delegations agreed to hold the first meeting this year in Mexico, on the congresses of the two countries have approved the agreement.

According to the document, the first meeting could deal with common topics such as migrant workers, trade, energy, refugees, health, drug trafficking, and economic problems.

C.A. Peace First Topic

FL120430 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2340 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 11 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Antonio Riva Palacio, president of the Mexican Senate's Grand Commission, said here today that peace in Central America will be the fundamental topic at the Mexican-Guatemalan interparliamentary meeting, since development is not possible without peace. The meeting will be held in September in Mexico, not necessarily in the Federal District, said the senator.

The document signed this afternoon by congressional representatives from both countries establishes for the first time in the history of reciprocal relations interparliamentary meetings to be held alternately in each country. The plan must still be submitted to each country's congress.

SILVA HERZOG DISCUSSES DEBT WITH BAKER, VOLCKER

PA120028 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Mar 86 pp 1-A, 21-A

[Article by correspondent Jose Manuel Nava]

[Text] Washington, D.C., 7 Mar -- Mexican Finance and Public Credit Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog has concluded days of "financial diplomacy" with U.S. and international officials with an agreement "still very far off" regarding the future handling of the Mexican foreign debt and regarding the fulfillment of all the nation's financing needs.

Very reliable sources have told EXCELSIOR that the secretary reaffirmed to Washington's financial authorities that Mexico is determined to resolve its problems "through negotiations." However, he also said that his country could adopt another stance if it is pressed too hard, or if there is no reaction to President Miguel de la Madrid's views that creditors ought to bear their share of the consequences of the crisis caused by the foreign debt.

Silva Herzog, who was accompanied by Bank of Mexico Director Miguel Mancera Aguayo, today held new meetings with James Baker, U.S. secretary of the Treasury, and Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. The Mexican officials also met with top World Bank officials.

The Mexican and U.S. officials held to their agreement of not reporting to the press any details regarding the negotiations between countries' top financial authorities. In order to keep the meeting private, Silva Herzog's and Baker's assistants did not attend these meetings.

Rafael Resendiz, official spokesman for Finance and Public Credit Secretariat, yesterday told the international news media that Mexico has not decided on any unilateral action. He added that the negotiations conducted by Silva Herzog have been "mutually respectful and free of any sort of confrontation."

However, U.S. sources noted that Silva Herzog, who apparently was using the negotiating strength he received from Latin American support granted him during the meeting in Cartagena last week, "in diplomatic fashion" warned that that stance could change if the country runs out of nonconfrontational [no confrontacionistas] options and does not get a response from its creditors.

During the meeting held last week in Punta del Este, Uruguay, the member countries of the Cartagena consensus issued a declaration stating that they will support any country that takes unilateral measures to face its foreign debt problems. It is widely felt that the "unilateral measure" the Cartagena consensus is referring to is a moratorium.

In view of the results of the Punta del Este meeting convoked by Mexico and Venezuela to analyze the new economic situation caused by the drop in the price of oil, commentators here said that Sivla Herzog would return to Washington with solid negotiating capabilities, supported by his colleagues in other indebted Latin American countries.

For U.S. authorities, the results of the "financial diplomacy" campaign initiated by Silva Herzog are of crucial importance. Its results will establish the guidelines to be followed in the handling of the foreign debt crisis of other countries in Latin America and in other regions.

A U.S. Government source said that the magnitude of what is at stake at the engotiations with Mexico "explains the secrecy of the negotiations." The future of the Latin American debt "depends on the results of the talks with Silva Herzog," the source added.

The same tendency was boserved in the past when Mexico received preferential treatment as a "reward" for being a "model debtor." After Mexico was granted "advantageous" conditions for the payment of its debt within the now obsolete structures, the same treatment was generalized for countries "with adequate economic policies in operation."

According to reports, Silva Herzog returned to Mexico City on a commercial flight to inform the Mexican president of the results of 2 days of negotiations in Washington. It is expected that Silva Herzog will travel to New York next week to meet with representatives of the creditor banks.

Although a spokesman of the Creditors' Interbank Committee [Comite Interbancario de Acreedores] in New York said that the institution's co-president William Rhodes was not expecting Silva Herzog in New York, other sources said that on three occasions the Mexican official had cancelled a "courtesy visit" with the bankers to brief them on the results of his talks in Washington. "That has stirred up some expectations," they said.

It was reiterated here in Washington that Silva Herzog is not seeking direct U.S. financial aid but the definition of a plan by which the U.S. Government may intercede with the banks in order to obtain lower interest and credit rates and preferential conditions.

It has been said that the U.S. President is not willing to mediate in this sense, because "there are many countries that are facing the same situation as Mexico, and it is simply not possible to mediate for Mexico and not do the same for the other countries."

"That is the key to the matter," a U.S. financial expert said, adding that "it is an argument that the United States uses as a negotiating weapon, but the truth is that, as in the past, it will be done with Mexico, and then with the rest of the debtor countries.

SILVA HERZOG ASKS CREDITORS FOR 'NEW OUTLOOK'

PA122012 Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Report by Claudio Guzman]

[Text] Mexico has asked Canada, Japan, the FRG, France, and Great Britain to act with a new outlook to resolve Mexico's debt problem. In a telex sent by Finance Secretary Jesus Silva Herzog to the finance ministers of those nations, he asked for joint efforts and he stated Mexico's decision to solve the problems through negotiations.

The document stated that our country seeks solutions to the crisis through coordinated actions rather than through unilateral actions that would provoke confrontation.

The document explained how the drop of petroleum prices in the world market is affecting the Mexican economy. It stated that the reduction of petroleum revenue in Mexico this year amounts to $7 billion. That sum is equivalent to almost one-third of our exports. That drop in petroleum is also equivalent to 3 or 4 percent of the gross domestic product estimated for this year.

Secretary Silva Herzog stated that concessions will be demanded from the private banks to help our country overcome its difficult financial situation.

CONATO NATIONAL STRIKE CONTINUES IN CAPITAL

PA112123 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Police vigilance increased in the capital today to avoid disorder and obstruction of traffic, which occurred yesterday in the wake of the nationwide strike promoted by the National Council of Organized Workers, Conato, and which is in its 2d day today.

The climate of tension seemed to decrease and businesses operated normally while many people circulated on the sidewalks of Central Avenue, the most important business street in the capital. A high percentage of industries are paralyzed while certain companies are operating to a moderate extent. Regarding the 2d day of the strike, Conato leader Jose Meneses said:

[Begin recording][Meneses] Conato's stand is that we are not in the situation of a union and a company negotiating a list of demands or a collective agreement, which is what the law establishes in order to declare a strike lggal or illegal. We feel that this is a general strike convoked by the labor movement which is not within the provision of the law. For the time being, the situation is that the enterprises are paralyzed by the workers because there will be a big march tomorrow. This is why our people are resting today.

[Unidentified reporter] National Defense Forces troops are in the streets. They will do everything possible to prevent any action aimed at obstructing traffic. What is your opinion on this? Will the march be staged despite this limitation?

[Meneses] It is one thing to close one street or one avenue, and it is another to stage a march. We will take any route in this country to reach the planned destination. Thus, I do not believe the Defense Forces are contemplating taking any such actions. Consequently, we will stage this march without any provocation or violence. This is the decision of the labor movement. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the general strike reached its 2d day in Colon with the paralyzation of 90 percent of the activities in the main commercial areas of the province. In the meantime, spokesmen of Panama's refinery said that they agree with Conato and therefore have been supporting the strike since Monday.

[Begin unidentified labor leader recording] We are in a total, full, absolute, and indefinite strike to back the measures of Conato and the, CTRP, Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama, which reject any amendment to the labor code.

This is the stand we have taken. This shows that our union is fully identified with the labor movement as a whole and our movement is firm, compact, and determined. We want to urge representatives of the state and the Defense Forces to start the dialogue Conato proposes and to withdraw the bill from the National Assembly so the measures that will be taken benefit the Panamanian people. [end recording]

In conclusion, owners of gasoline stations within the Colon city limits noted that fuel is becoming scarce. Refinery spokesmen said that fuel will run out in a few hours.

CONEP Issues Communique

PA120426 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] In view of the present situation of unrest in the country marked by stoppage and strikes, the National Council of Private Enterprise, CONEP, has issued a communique saying:

When we consider the obligation to pay the foreign debt accrued during the past few years, we have seen that three new laws, agricultural and livestock, industrial, and labor, have been presented as the solution for the economic crisis. These laws bear no relationship to national reality.

In the communique, signed by its 32 member organizations, CONEP added its full rejection of the plans by government sectors and groups advocating ideologies contrary to Panama's interest to destroy the free enterprise and private property system under the pretext of supposed pressure by the World Bank and the IMF. Simultaneously, CONEP rejected the bills presented by the executive branch because they do not help solve the country's serious economic crisis. Finally, the CONEP said it will stand guard to see that the state guarantees the enforcement of the principles of liberty, democracy, free enterprise, and the Panamanian family's right for standard of living worthy of its human nature and in accordance with the wealth that the country generates.

Industrial Sector at 'Standstill'

PA122101 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The industrial sector is virtually at a standstill in the capital in the wake of the labor strike promoted by Conato, which is in its 3d day today to demand that the government not implement amendments to the Labor Code. In the meantime, there is no gasoline at the gasoline stations because Panama refinery workers are not working. This situation will shortly result in nationwide paralysis, thus making the crisis worse.

So far, there is quite a decrease in the activity of the collective transportation sector, while businesses remained open. The Conato strike is practically consolidated. Meanwhile, in the Legislative Assembly deliberations on the Labor Code continue.

Conato leaders headed by Arcenio Dominguez, said:

[Begin recording] The strike has received 95-percent support. Today, we believe many more workers will join the strike. It has been a peaceful strike at all times. There have been no subversive actions or anything like that at any time.

Today's march, which is being called the march of national salvation, was given that name because there was not adequate consultation with the labor sector on the bills that were introduced in the Legislative Assembly, for example and particularly the Labor Code. We were told that we would start at square one. Square one means nothing. However, it started at square eight. Conato is not being intransigent. However, if the government, that is, President Delvalle, expressed goodwill, it was natural that we would agree to talk, beginning at square one. We have not rejected a dialogue at any time. There have been constant dialogues. We have never broken off a dialogue. We will not break off a dialogue. However, we cannot allow or accept that we have been told that we would begin at one point, and that later we are started from another [end recording]

Italian Ship Supplying Fuel

PA121859 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 1753 GMT 12 Mar 86

[From the "Alternative" program by Miguel Antonio Bernal]

[Text] Dear listeners, we have two important reports for you.

At the invitation of the Popular Action Party [PAPO], an important meeting is currently being held of all the opposition political forces at the PAPO headquarters. The Christian Democratic Party, the Molirena Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement, the Socialist Workers Party, the Authentic Liberal Party, the Authentic Panamenist Party, and PAPO are attending this meeting, and we will try to report on the outcome of the meeting before the end of this newscast.

Meanwhile, we have learned that an Italian ship is right now supplying fuel -- following orders from the U.S. Government -- to the National Guard [Panamanian Defense Forces] in the canal zone. National Guard tanker trucks are in the canal zone right now under the protection of the U.S. Army and are receiving gasoline from an Italian ship. This is another way of conducting a joint operation in order to try to break the Panamanian workers' strike.

As the workers have pointed out in their call for unity, in their invitation to the march slated for this afternoon at 1400 leaving from Porras Plaza, we are convinced that neither Italian ships nor U.S. ships will prevent the Panamanian people from voicing -- once and for all -- their displeasure over the plans to take us again to the era of the Code of Hammurabi and turn the Panamanian workers into modern slaves. Those laws will not pass, as National Institute of Telecommunications worker Jorge Cal has just said here.

Delvalle on Economic Package

PA122209 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2032 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] President Eric Arturo Delvalle has said that the economic package sent to the Legislative Assembly to be discussed seeks to reactivate our weak economy.

[Begin recording] [Delvalle] All that Panamanians wanted is currently occurring in the country, namely, a democratic opening. Several sectors believe that their interest is being harmed. After analyzing all the information available regarding various areas of national life, we took the initiative of choosing those we felt were better. We have embodied them in bills that have been sent to the Legislative Assembly, where a dialogue will take place. This is precisely the place where dialogue occurs in a democracy. We hope that all sectors who feel that they can contribute making the laws more adequate for their interest -- I hope these interests are not personal but those of the homeland -- can go to the Assembly and help improve these laws.

[Unidentified reporter] We think that the country will be paralyzed for lack of fuel. Has the executive taken onto consideration the proposal made by....

[Delvalle, interrupting] Yes. The national government has taken all necessary measures. The country will not suffer for lack of fuel.

[Reporter] Mr President, a problem is at hand. The labor, industrial, and agricultural and livestock sectors have said they cannot believe in the negotiating team that traveled to Washington to renegotiate the foreign debt because they are the same people who participated in the corruption and embezzlement of public funds.

[Delvalle] I don't know who participated in the embezzlement of public funds. They should be less daring in making these charges and name those they feel must be accused of such actions. To me, they [the negotiators] are patriots who defended Panama's viewpoints.

Panama has not presented any foreign model, nor that of the World Bank or the IMF. Panama has presented a Panamanian model for the resolution of its problems. This is what we have presented to the Assembly, and this is what we hope to discuss at the Assembly, with or without the participation of the groups that feel they are affected, according to their views.

[Reporter] The amendments [of the Labor Code] do not benefit private enterprise, the workers, the farmers, or the industrialists. So, who benefits from those amendments?

[Delvalle] The amendments do benefit all sectors. We are in the process of passing an agricultural and livestock incentives bill that is positive. Here is Minister Bruno Garisto, who can give you plenty of details on the agricultural and livestock bills. The industrial bill stimulates the creation of new jobs. So, this law also improves the Panamanian workers' situation. This law has two or three more articles than Industrial Law 413, to which the industrialists so tenaciously cling. We have been trying to create a second and a third shift in the various enterprises that do not operate at full capacity. In this way, more Panamanians will be able to work and we will be able to export more. In addition, we will be to pay our international obligations, which we must. Also, we have to understand that the industrialists have been tax exempt for many years in this country. I also am an industrialist, but I think the time has arrived when all of us have to lend a hand and make some sacrifice. The share of the industrialists is to pay taxes on their machinery, even if these taxes are low, because such machinery is not produced in Panama, the industrialists must pay taxes. The industrialists have resented this. Let us also have a tax on the raw material that we will use in our production, even it if is small.

Let's be more creative and more efficient. Let's produce at the same or at a lower cost. We can do it provided a limit is established. If such limitations are not placed, there is no way that we can lower costs. This is similar to a child, who wants to return home after midnight. His father then tells him: You have to return at midnight. Of course, it would be preferable if nothing is said to the father. But the moment has arrived when we all must admit that there are limitations, that we have to tighten our belts and forge ahead. Thank you very much. [end recording]

Refinery Union Leaders Arrested

PA122301 Panama City Radio Mundial in Spanish 2246 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Humberto Blandon and Luis Tamayo, secretary general and deputy secretary general respectively of the Union of Employees of the Panama Refinery, have just been arrested by the National Guard [National Defense Forces]. The National Guard is trying to enter the facilities of the refinery, and into Texaco's storage area. Cadena Mundial urges workers and Conato to support and voice their solidarity with the arrested leaders, and to demand their immediate release.

Government To Guarantee Fuel

PA120133 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Jorge Federico Lee, Panamanian labor and social welfare minister, was interviewed regarding the situation unleashed by Panama Refinery and the shortage of fuel.

[Begin recording] The strike under way at Panama Refinery is a very serious one. The result of this strike is already being felt because the country is beginning to experience a fuel shortage. Perhaps what is most serious is the fact that the country is beginning to feel a shortage of gas. In view of this, I think that it is very important to clarify that the refinery is a strategic industry and the union leaders must be made to understand this. A refinery is not something you can play with. Therefore, for the past 3 days the government has been talking with refinery workers who are members of the union. If an agreement is not reached through this dialogue, then the government will have to take action to guarantee the supply of fuel to the country. [end recording]

Ministers Deny Foreign Pressure

PA130421 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0357 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Panama City, 12 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Panamanian Government today denied that the economic reforms it is attempting to implement are basically aimed at adjusting to a plan imposed by the international financial organizations for the renegotiation of the foreign debt. Three of Eric Arturo Delvalle's ministers held a press conference today to report on the contents of the three bills that have unleashed an indefinite general strike that began on Monday.

"Panama has to reorganize itself economically, even if it has or does not have to renegotiate its foreign debt," Bernardo Cardenas, Panamanian commerce and industries minister, said. Minister Cardenas expressed the need Panama has "to confront its domestic commitments, not only the foreign ones."

The high-ranking officials responded to the charges presented by the main labor unions to the effect that the economic plan was imposed by the World Bank and the IMF as a condition to renegotiate Panama's 1985 and 1986 foreign debt in the amount of $597 million. Panama's total foreign debt is $4 billion, the highest "per capita" on the American continent.

The government plan includes amendments to the labor laws, abolishes several protectionist measures enjoyed by the industrial sector, and establishes a new plan for the agricultural sector. The major labor unions reacted to the bills, which were also rejected by the industrial and business sectors, by starting on Monday a general strike for an indefinite duration of time.

Minister Cardenas said that his department's bill is designed to increase production, "to prevent highly protectionist companies from being established in the future," and to "make industry more competitive."

Agricultural Development Minister Bruno Garisto, for his part, presented a 5-year plan that will affect the 160,000 workers of the agricultural sector, which generates 10 percent of the country's gross national product.

Jorge Federico Lee admitted that the Labor Code reforms are the "most controversial" issue of the government's plan, while insisting that it only seeks to increase productivity, improve workers' incomes, and produce better merchandise at lower costs.

The reforms to the labor laws include production bonuses, compensation for piece work, and a lowering of overtime pay, all designed to generate more employment.

COSTA RICA

ARIAS, MONGE INVITED TO REGIONAL LEADERS' MEETING

PA122219 San Jose Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez has confirmed that he will attend the meeting of Central American heads of state scheduled to be held in Esquipulas, Guatemala.

He made the statement at the end of a meeting with Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle, at which Vice President-elect Jourge Daniel Dengo was also present. Carpio is in Costa Rica to invite President Luis Alberto **Monge** to attend the meeting in Esquipulas, which will probably be held during the third week of May on the initiative of Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo.

Arias remarked that if the meeting of heads of state is held he would attend it as constitutional president of Costa Rica. (?He added that) he also talked with Carpio about the possibility of holding meetings at the vice presidential level prior to the meeting in Esquipulas in order to draft the agenda of the summit. Arias noted that this agenda must be drafted beforehand.

In addition, the president-elect said that every initiative toward unity among the Central American countries is a step forward in the struggle to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the region. I think that everything that involves getting to know each other better and sitting down to talk is a step forward, Arias remarked. For this reason, I have agreed to attend the Esquipulas meeting if it is held.

Arias, who suggested that the Panamanian president be invited, feels that it is important to find a forum to engage in dialogue even if deep differences do exist among the Central American nations.

The Guatemalan vice president noted that Central America is now reaching an unprecedented democratic stage. Our peoples thirst for democracy, and Costa Rica is a good example because Costa Ricans carry it in their hearts and practice it, Carpio said. He added that that is why it is felt that the democratic system is the best for the region, and for this reason President Cerezo always says that active neutrality for democracy is upheld.

In addition, the Guatemalan vice president said that the peoples want democracy in Central America, and for this reason it is important to talk and understand each other. Carpio said that his country wants and seeks dialogue in the region and voiced hopes that it will be achieved.

Following the meeting with the Guatemalan vice president, Arias met with Mexican Deputy Foreign Secretary Ricardo Valero. At this second meeting, the two politicians exchanged greetings and overall views regarding Central America and the need to seek political solution to the conflict.

Vice President Carpio told President Monge that his country and his government admire and respect Costa Rica. Costa Rica's democracy is an example to the Americas and the world and you, Mr President, have done magnificent work as president, added the special envoy of President Vinicio Cerezo, who arrived yesterday and met with Rafael Angel Calderon, former presidential candidate, President-elect Arias Sancehz, and President Monge. He reiterated President Cerezo's invitation to attend the meeting of Central American presidents to be held in Esquipulas in the next few weeks.

Commenting on the results of the elections in his country with President Monge, Carpio said that Guatemala has begun the road toward democracy. He stressed that 70 percent of the electors voted for President Cerezo and the remaining 30 percent also voted for a democratic party, which means that our people want democracy. As demonstrated by Costa Rica, this is a good system, he added.

For his part, President Monge told him that 98 percent of the voters who went to the polls in Costa Rica voted for the two largest parties, which are democratic.

Upon expressing thanks for the invitation from President Cerezo to attend the meeting in Esquipulas, President Monge said that he still does not know if he will be able to attend. He reiterated that he thinks it would be more advisable that President-elect Oscar Arias do so a few weeks before assuming power. However, he left open the possibility of eventually making the trip because he thinks that the efforts proposed by the Guatemalan president to establish a regional forum are positive.

MONGE ON NICARAGUAN LEADERS' 'INTRANSIGENCE'

PA120455 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Acknowledging that the regional crisis has worsened because of the Nicaraguan position, President Luis Alberto Monge has stated that Nicaragua's rejection of El Salvador's proposal demonstrates the intransigence of Nicaragua's leaders. He said that if he asked Napoleon Duarte to talk with the guerrillas, and if at one time it became necessary to bargain with the kidnappers of the Salvadoran president's daughter, in which he acted as a mediator, then he cannot see why the Nicaraguan commanders cannot be asked to negotiate with the insurgents. Monge Alvarez reiterated that only through dialogue and a consensus can regional peace be achieved. With the rejection of the president of El Salvador's proposal that negotiations be carried out simultaneously with the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan guerrillas as an effective step toward reaching Central American peace, President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez believes that the Nicaraguan leaders do not honor the rights and desires of our peoples.

Our peoples hope that through talks the war and death that is causing so many victims in El Salvador and Nicaragua will be ended, the president added. In this regard, he said that the proposal of the Salvadoran president opens the possibility of a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict.

ARIAS SATISFIED WITH HABIB APPOINTMENT

PA120449 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Dr Oscar Arias is favorably inclined toward the appointment of Ambassador Philip Habib. Describing Habib as one of the most able U.S. diplomats, President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez said that he looks favorably on the appointment of Philip Habib as roving ambassador to Central America. He expressed the hope that Habib will be successful in his new mission, as he has been in the pacification of the Middle East and on other continents and hopes he can do the same in strife-torn Central America.

Arias Sanchez said that we all want a peaceful negotiated political solution to the differences existing between sister Central American countries, and that he believes that the talent, experience, and knowledge of the new roving ambassador are going to be very important, and will be a further step toward finding a peaceful solution to the Central American problems.

Another example of Sandinist intransigence and an indication that the Sandinists are not doing their part in seeking a solution to the Central American crisis is the way President-elect Dr Oscar Arias Sanchez described President Daniel Ortega's rejection of the proposal made by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte to talk simultaneously with the guerrillas.

Dr Oscar Arias stated that all of us who are willing to add our grain of sand to ensure dialogue and not violence and war will decide the outcome of conflicts feel a great deal of frustration and discouragement.

EL SALVADOR

BUSINESSMEN CRITICIZE DUARTE 'SMOKESCREENS'

PA120155 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2110 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Mar (DPA) -- Salvadoran business sectors accused President Jose Napoleon Duarte today of setting up "smokescreens" to distract opponents' attention from the economic package he plans to implement that imposes all kinds of taxes on the people.

Victor Steiner, president of the influential Chamber of Commerce and Industry of El Salvador, said today that Duarte's latest "maneuver" is that of suggesting a third meeting with the guerrillas in order to continue the dialogue, but now he is "linking" his proposal to a request that Daniel Ortega do the same with rebels in his country.

"It has been demonstrated twice that dialogue with the Salvadoran terrorists does not lead to any positive solution," the Salvadoran business leader said.

The Salvadoran businessmen, from medium-sized to large firms, including agricultural enterprises, have organized a business unity forum to defend economic freedom and national recovery scheduled for next Thursday.

In this forum, the negative effects of the latest economic measures adopted by Jose Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democratic government will be reviewed.

Salvadoran business leaders Steiner, Roberto Ortiz Aval, and Carlos Enrique Palomo said that it will not only be an analytical forum, but that conclusions and recommendations resulting from it will be presented to the government.

The businessmen said that the president has reformed some of his measures, but the private sector believes the changes are "cosmetic" or simply "insignificant."

The businessmen said, for example, that President Duarte eliminated a selective tax on consumption of certain imports from within and outside the area, but this elimination is useless, since importing such products is banned anyway.

They also said that the president had increased the cost of a gallon of high octane gasoline by 3.50 colones and later, in the framework of his "reconsideration," lowered it by 0.30 centavos. Until January, the gallon of high octane gasoline cost 6.40 colones in El Salvador, and it was then increased to 9.70. A few weeks ago, the president lowered the price to 9.40 colones. [all figures as received]

The business leaders also criticized Duarte's government for what they described as pressuring public employees into supporting his measures through organizations that receive foreign aid or financing, mainly from the United States.

MNR'S UNGO TERMS DUARTE PROPOSAL 'MADNESS'

PA121541 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1401 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Madrid, 12 Mar (EFE) -- Guillermo Ungo, leader of the Salvadoran National Revolutionary Movement, MNR, termed "madness" the offer by President Duarte to condition negotiations with the Salvadoran guerrillas on the Sandinists negotiating with the Nicaraguan "contras."

Ungo, whose party is part of the Socialist International, passed through Madrid on his way to Stockholm where he will attend the funeral of Olof Palme, after attending the inaugural of President Mario Soares in Lisbon.

In statements to EFE, the MNR leader affirmed that the opposition forces in El Salvador cannot accept the condition that negotiations between the government and the guerrillas depend on the Nicaraguan Government's agreement to negotiate with the "contras," "because this is supportive of the Reagan strategy."

"President Duarte," he said, "has always favored an internal negotiation between the government and the opposition forces, without foreign participation. Therefore, we cannot understand why he is now connecting the two conflicts. We have nothing to do with Nicaragua in that sense. The problems are specific to each nation, although both may be disputed areas."

Duarte made his proposal on 4 March.

Ungo stated that dialogue between the government and the opposition is possible, as was evidenced in the meetings with Duarte on 15 October and 30 November 1984 which established the bases of negotiation, but Duarte "did not fulfill what was agreed to then."

Of the three points agreed: continuation of the dialogue, formation of a joint commission (the regulations of which were approved), and release of the persons wounded in the war and exchange of prisoners, Duarte "did not fulfill any of them," according to Ungo, and this was achieved only after the guerrillas kidnapped the president's daughter.

Ungo said that Duarte has interfered with the dialogue for 16 months, arguing that the conditions are not favorable for negotiation and that economic reforms must first be carried out, thus proposing waiting for 8 more months.

Ungo views the Central American prelate's stand in a different manner. While he considers the credibility of Salvadoran Archbishop Rivera y Damas in the government and in the opposition and in his position as mediator, he does not feel the same about Nicaraguan Cardinal Obando y Bravo. The FDR leader that his country's church has a strong social force.

The Salvadoran conflict can be solved in the medium term and only through internal negotiations, and he insists that the United States is trying to stretch the situation out because 6 years ago it said that the situation could be solved in 6 months, and now it insists that the matter will take a couple of years.

He explained that the USSR is not aiding the Salvadoran guerrillas and that the United States "is making such a bad show in the zone that the USSR is getting its influence served on a platter, without investing anything."

Regarding the situation of Central America and the Contadora's role, Ungo told EFE that this group of countries cannot do it all; that it can present the Latin American stand -- which differs from that of Reagan -- with the fundamental objective of dissuasion and that its mission is to contribute to establishing the conditions for dialogue.

"In any event," he said, "there cannot be a joint total solution for peace in Central America, as each country must decide on its own solutions."

He harshly criticized the request for economic aid to the Nicaraguan "contras" by the U.S. President and said that the United States invests $1.5 million in his country each day in military aid to the government.

Despite this aid, he is optimistic that the guerrillas will triumph because they are popular, because the people want it, and it is impossible to defeat the peoples, as seen in Vietnam, "which the United States cannot see," he noted.

Regarding Spain, he expressed appreciation of the position announced at the United Nations on the human rights situation in his country and the fact that it received those maimed in the war, although he stressed that the Spanish Government maintains a neutral position, as evidenced by its official acceptance of President Jose Napoleon Duarte's visit.

FMLN FURTHER CRITICIZES DUARTE DIALOGUE PROPOSAL

PA121837 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Station commentary: "Napoleon Duarte, a Loyal Puppet"]

[Text] Napoleon Duarte has announced a proposal, which is supposedly new and supposedly his initiative, not only for El Salvador, but for Central America's area, as well. The truth is that Duarte's latest proposal does not contain any new elements that could help achieve peace in El Salvador, much less for Central America. It is not even his initiative. Duarte, with his proposal, is just another piece in Ronald Reagan's propagandistic scheme. Duarte's proposal merely consists of a summit of Central American presidents, the creation of a Central American Parliament -- which is not Duarte's but Vinicio Cerezo's idea -- and the simultaneous meetings between the Nicaraguan Government and the counterrevolutionary mercenaries and between the FMLN-FDR and Jose Napoleon Duarte. This proposal is the most recent one presented by Napoleon Duarte following Reagan's orders, just when the latter is fully immersed in a struggle with the U.S. Congress to obtain approval for the $100 million package for the counterrevolutionary mercenaries.

The Washington hierarchs are demanding the approval of the $100 million package for the miserable mercenaries crying for a quart of oil in the United States, but cannot even concoct a (?simple) story to justify the already-consumed $27 million granted by Reagan last year. In 6 years of struggle, the contras have neither won a minimum of popular support, nor have they managed to have any political influence in the country.

As the genocidal mercenaries themselves have said, they are totally dependent on the U.S. dollars in order to at least stay alive in Honduran territory. The problem of the mercenaries' survival is grave and vital for Ronald Reagan. A total defeat would have a profound political effect on the U.S. Government. A total defeat of the mercenaries would be added to the list of setbacks suffered by U.S. imperialism in the world, and would further discredit Reagan's super-warmongering policy.

This explains the great efforts undertaken by the Reagan administration to obtain approval for the $100-million package. The effort not only includes an offensive by U.S. Government officials, but Reagan has also sent his warships to Central America. Military maneuvers are taking place in Honduras, and of course, Napoleon Duarte, his most loyal puppet, pulls the chestnuts out of the fire for Ronald Reagan and his contra package by making his proposal, which is aimed only at complementing imperialism's campaign for obtaining approval for the $100 million.

For Duarte, just as all the political components of his project, dialogue and negotiations are like a game, part of the maneuver. The social pact is a game; the agrarian reform is also a game; respect for human rights is only playing with words.

Only a few weeks ago the FMLN and the FDR presented the latest serious proposal for the continuation of talks, and Duarte replied that there would be no political opportunity, that there would be no political opportunities for a dialogue in the next 8 months. However, now that it can help Reagan's propaganda, Duarte gives political opportunities overnight in shameful display of total submissiveness as a puppet, and presents his proposal.

Duarte thinks nothing of ignoring the agreements established at the La Palma and Ayagualo meetings. He cares nothing for the church as a mediator. Duarte is simply not serious when he speaks about a dialogue. He is only fulfilling one of Ronald Reagan's political needs. He forgets that the FMLN is sovereign, that we act within the framework of national interests. Once again, with this proposal, Duarte bares himself. He shows his poverty, servility, and political defeatism, he turns his back on national interests, and once again dances to the Reagan administration's tune.

Apart from the puppet show Duarte put on with the proposal, what has surfaced is Duarte's failure to discern the correlation of forces in the area. In the case of Reagan's mercenaries, what can they negotiate? From what position, and with what strength? The only thing the contras can negotiate, judging from their situation, is their surrender and amnesty for those who have served as peons of the imperialist aggression against Nicaragua, and who have not been able to overpower the Nicaraguan people who have fought for their revolution and sovereignty.

In El Salvador's case, the real situation is that the FMLN has expanded the war's theater of operation throughout the entire national territory. It has broadened its representation, and the people's support is the clearest reaffirmation of deep popular roots. The evidence of and objective duality of power in the country is proof of the development and capability achieved by the FMLN.

This is most eloquently expressed in the intense attrition suffered by the puppet army's living forces. Blows in vital areas include the paralyzation of land transportation decreed by the guerrillas, the invaluable deterioration of the country's electric system, and the breakdown of the country's economy, which is near collapse. Meanwhile, the Christian Democratic regime is trying to demonstrate that the people support its project, but it cannot even gather 1,000 people.

The government's total dependence on Yankee dollars for survival is similar to that of the counterrevolutionary mercenaries. Both have shamelessly admitted this publicly. Yankee dollars, for Duarte and for the Somozist mercenaries, are their only support. The FMLN does not need logistic support from abroad. The FMLN's support for the people's war comes from the people themselves. Of 6,084 casualties inflicted on the puppet Army in 1985, 42 percent resulted from the accurate use of popular arms manufactured entirely in our country.

Therefore, Duarte's proposal of simultaneous dialogue is only another puppet show by Reagan's most faithful puppet. Duarte wants to make a propagandist game of the dialogue and negotiation to support the imperialist interventionist policy in Central America.

Dialogue, negotiation, and peace are some of the demands the people have made of the regime in large demonstrations. We believe that there still is time for a serious dialogue and negotiation in favor of the national interests. The longer we take, the more unfavorable the correlation will be for Duarte. It is useless to put off the dialogue with the vain hope that in time the situation will shift in the government's favor.

Once again, Napoleon Duarte's willingness to hold talks is tested. The FMLN-FDR has made serious proposals for the past 15 months, and Duarte's answer has been a refusal. Once again within the next few days, the government's willingness to hold talks will be tested in the people's full view. This willingness is a propagandist maneuver, a tactical dialogue on the Duarte regime's part.

Salvadorans are aware of the fact that the people are demanding the dialogue, justice, and peace.

INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS' GROUP MEMBERS RELEASED

PA121624 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] On Sunday four foreign doctors were arrested by troops of the Duarte regime and sent to the Treasury Police headquarters, where they were held until Wednesday. The four doctors -- two Frenchmen, one Dane, and one Spaniard -- were released, but they were prohibited from practicing their profession in our country.

It has been reported that the four are members of the humanitarian organization Doctors of the World. This organization is comprised of European doctors, especially from France. A large part of its financing comes from the EEC. Doctors of the World operates to help affected civilians in countries where there are conflicts.

The Doctors of the World members have been working in our country since 1982 and have been basically involved in helping the displaced civilian population. The aid they provide to the displaced population is very valuable because it is very efficient and free of charge.

Nevertheless, it seems that the puppet Army feels that it is a crime to help the civilians affected by the war. It not only harasses and oppresses the civilian population and turns the civilians into displaced population. For the repressive Army, the only valid thing is extermination, assassination, and the destruction of the property of the civilians and the peasants.

For the puppet Army, the only foreigners who are welcomed are those who come from the United States, dressed in olive green uniforms to train the regime's battalions in assassination and depopulation techniques.

In our country there are currently approximately 500,000 displaced persons. There are half a million displaced persons who do not receive any help or medical attention. In light of this situation, the fact that the Army arrested four doctors who are trying to help the critical situation of the displaced persons shows the puppet Army's hostility towards the civilian population.

In a country where there are 500,000 displaced persons who do not receive any services and in the best of cases receive very bad services the importance of the help provided by humanitarian organizations such as Doctors of the World, Caritas, Doctors Without Borders, and others, increases. Nevertheless, for the generals and colonels of the High Command, it is a crime for doctors to come help the thousands of peasants who have been displaced by the regime.

It is due to such evident actions that resolutions are constantly issued in the United Nations and the OAS condemning the Duarte government for being a human rights violator.

FMLN ORDERS TRANSPORTATION STOPPAGE 10 MARCH

PA121401 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Attention, drivers in the entire national territory. The General Command of the FMLN has ordered a national transportation stoppage as of the early hours of next Monday, 10 March. A national transportation stoppage is ordered to reject the policy of genocide against the civilian population carried out by Napoleon Duarte's government, to reject the economic package against the people. A national transportation stoppage is ordered as of Monday, 10 March, in the entire national territory, on all of the main and secondary highways, to reject the bombing of civilians, to reject the package in favor of hunger and poverty. The General Command calls on all our military units in all the national territory to carry out this order in the strictest manner.

HONDURAS

COMMENTARY VIEWS CONTRA AID CONTROVERSY

PA121822 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Mar 86

[From the "Current Topics" feature]

[Text] The statements issued during 2 consecutive weeks by top-ranking officials in President Ronald Reagan's administration have put the Honduran Government in an uncomfortable position. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said 2 weeks ago that Honduras no longer represented a problem for the aid to the contras. U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's turn came last week; he circulated through the world his opinion about the alleged aid the Honduran Government is giving to the contras. The U.S. news media -- and naturally the Honduran news media -- have prominently reported these two news items, which were immediately rejected by the Honduran Government, beginning with the statements issued by Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras at the conclusion of a National Defense Council meeting, where they surely learned about and discussed these statements that damage the international image of Honduras and its new government -- which has barely completed its first 40 days.

The president of the Republic, evidently surprised by Caspar Weinberger's assertion that the Honduran Government has authorized the delivery of aid to the contras in its national territory, replied: I do not know where this came from, because we did not even discuss that topic in my talks with the assistant U.S. secretary of defense. The Honduran president's statements were issued at the Presidential Palace to national reporters who asked him about this. On Wednesday, 6 March, foreign secretary clearly asserted that President Azcona's government had not offically authorized the United States to deliver aid to the Nicaraguans who are fighting against the Sandinist regime. The Honduran president did not hold an interview with U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, but with Assistant Defense Secretary William Howard Taft. Who knows what strange reasons moved the official in charge of the United States' strategic security to issue the inopportune statements that have stirred up the wasp's nest of public opinion, and prompted high-ranking officials in the Honduran public administration to adopt a defensive position in an attempt to neutralize the negative effects of these statements, which were, suprisingly, unexpected.

President Jose Azcona added in his statements that the National Congress of Honduras has agreements and protocols that aptly define the type of military aid acceptable between Honduras and the United States, through our Armed Forces. Speaking specifically of aid to the contras, he said he knows the United States was very worried because Congress is not making it easy to obtain this aid. Although the Honduran president was referring to the U.S. Congress -- where President Reagan's request for $100 million has only been approved once and defeated three times -- it is important that the Hondurans know the Honduran National Congress' stand concerning this situation.

Just for the record, it is reported that the statements made by the president of the National Congress, Carlos Orbin Montoya, have satisfied the people's concern. Leaving for no room for captious interpretations, Montoya said: I hereby state that using our national territory for such purposes has not been authorized. Besides, the National Congress should know about this.

A national reporter recently asked him: Well then, who is lying? The question might have been more diplomatic and would have yielded the same results if he were asked: Well then, who is telling the truth? We admit that one must be careful in both style and format.

In Washington, Secretary of State George Shultz, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, and Deputy Defense Secretary William Howard Taft have implied that the contras can be helped from Honduras. In Honduras, the president of the Republic, Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras, and the president of the National Congress, Carlos Orbin Montoya, have emphatically denied that there is any such authorization for delivering aid to the contras in that manner and have reaffirmed that lending our national territory for such purposes has not been officially authorized. They also said they are unaware of the reasons that such statements were made in the United States, and that any authorization does not depend only on the Executive Branch or the Armed Forces, but must be previously approved by the deputies during the regular sessions of the Congress of the Republic.

Undoubtedly, a misinterpretation or a bad interpreter is responsible for the unacceptable U.S. remarks. The emphatic statements made by the Honduran high-level officials clearly state our government's official stand. If we tried to find an explanation for the statements by the U.S. secretaries of state and defense, we might think that they tried to pass on to public opinion the wishes of the Reagan administration, which have not, evidently, even been discussed with the Azcona Hoyo administration.

If the idea was to exert pressure to reach that goal, then the tactic -- which has been a mistake so many times before and has created unnecessary international tension -- has alerted the new Honduran administration, which will surely be more careful in the future when meeting with the envoys of the U.S. Government who frequently visit Honduras.

It has been announced that Philip Habib will be arriving shortly. His reputation is so filled with many successful achievements, that he is called President Reagan's star negotiator. You will probably remember his name: Philip Habib. He has been in the Middle East and lately in the Philippines when Corazon Aquino rose to power. Let us hope that Habib is aware of the remarks from Washington that have displeased the Honduran Government and people, and that the error that created unnecessary problems for our friend and ally will not be made again.

Honduras is aware of the difficult situation prevailing among the Nicaraguan opposition that is fighting against the Sandinist dictatorship. However, the United States should also be aware of the responsibilities we Hondurans have to our fatherland. Thus, it would be good diplomacy and in line with the friendship we have always had with our northern friend if the incorrect remarks that provoked a shower of rude and [words indistinct] against our government and country were to be eliminated, and would be a reciprocal agreement.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA CALLS CONGRESS DEBATES 'IMMORAL, ILLEGAL'

PA130415 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0305 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra today described as immoral and illegal the debates on $100 million in financial aid for the Somozist contras. Daniel Ortega termed the debates on the $100 million in financial aid for the mercenaries immoral, illegal, and lawless.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio, President Ortega said that the U.S. Congress has no right to discuss the sovereignty of a people such as the Nicaraguans, as this violates international law and moral principles.

President Ortega said that the U.S. Congress has no authority to continue debate on the $100 million for mercenaries.

In addition, President Ortega said today that the Reagan administration is trying to impress public opinion with the appointment of Philip Habib as emissary for Central America, but that the United States is not interested in a negotiated solution to the regional crisis. Habib's appointment is a step to impress international public opinion, Ortega said, adding that his government has not considered the possible arrival of the U.S. envoy in Nicaragua. Nicaragua believes that the appointment of the star negotiator is a propagandistic move by Reagan in his campaign to obtain support in the U.S. Congress for the approval of millions of dollars for the contras.

Ortega considered the U.S. Congress debates on this aid illegal and immoral. They have no right to hold debates on Nicaragua's future, as we are not a U.S. colony or state, the president stressed.

Ortega made this statement to reporters, today at noon, following his meeting with Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio, who avoided making direct reference to the $100 million in aid for the contras. However, he warned that it is necessary to renew the peace efforts, which rules out violence.

Carpio officially invited President Ortega to a summit of Central American presidents which is scheduled to take place in May in Esquipulas, Guatemala; the principal reason for the meeting is to discuss the regional crisis.

OFFICIALS TRAVEL TO SAN JOSE FOR BORDER TALKS

PA121513 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan members of the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border commission today left for San Jose where the second meeting of the commission will begin tomorrow. The Nicaraguan delegation is led by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and includes Captain Ricardo Wheelock and Foreign Ministry officials Ramon Leets Castillo and Oscar Cortes. The meeting that will begin in San Jose tomorrow will also be attended by the Contadora Group deputy foreign ministers.

STATE SECRETS BILL SENT TO ASSEMBLY COMMISSION

PA121450 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The plenum of the National Assembly today sent to the Security and Communications Media Commission the bill on state secrets presented by President Daniel Ortega Saavedra. The bill defines as a state secret all information whose knowledge by an unauthorized person affects or might affect the political, economic, and military security of the Republic as well as the regular functioning of the administrative activity. According to the bill, those who reveal secrets learned through duties will be penalized with 2 to 6 years imprisonment. If the disclosure of the secret leads to grave damage to the public cause, the sentence will be 6 to 12 years in prison. The public official or employee who takes advantage of his job to intercept, remove, publicly examine or embezzle private documents will be punished with absolute disqualification [inhabilitacion] from 1 to 3 years. According to the bill, if the abuse affects documents containing official information, the sentence will be 3 to 5 years in prison.

PLI 'NOT INVITED' TO CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE

PA081621 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0141 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Managua, 7 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition Independent Liberal Party [PLI] today clarified that it has not been invited to participate in the television debate on the constitution, which will begin tonight.

Virgilio Godoy, president of the main opposition political force, told ACAN-EFE that the PLI has not been invited to participate in the political debates to be held among the six parties represented in the parliament.

"We know absolutely nothing about it," the Liberal political leader, who has become the country's main opposition figure, stated tersely.

Questioned by ACAN-EFE, Godoy, former labor minister of the Sandinist government from 1979 to 1984, said: "I don't know what you are talking about" and added that his organization "has not been invited and does not have the least knowledge of this."

The Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Democratic Conservative Party, the Marxist-Leninist People's Action Movement, the Popular Social Christian Party, and the FSLN will discuss constitutional, political, and economic topics in the televised debate.

The Constitutional Liberal Party, the Social Christian Party, the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Central American Unionist Party, which are not represented in the National Assembly, will not participate in the television debates.

PSC OPPOSES FOREIGN INTERVENTION, CONTRA AID

PA110441 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] In an apparently new patriotic political stance, the rightist Social Christian Party [PSC] has expressed opposition to all foreign intervention in Nicaragua.

During a press conference before national and foreign reporters and contradicting what they have previously maintained, namely that the revolutionary government should hold a dialogue with the CIA mercenaries, Erick Ramirez Benavente, president of this extraparliamentary party, said that he opposes the granting of the $100 million that President Reagan is requesting for the counterrevolutionaries.

Regarding the latest statements of Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega, who met with counterrevolutionary leaders Arturo Cruz, Adolfo Calero, and Enrique Bermudez in Washington, Ramirez indicated: We are Christians, but the Catholic Church does not represent us, nor do we speak on behalf of it.

UNO WARNS AGAINST AGGRESSION TOWARD CARDINAL

PA111950 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] The Nicaraguan Opposition Unity, UNO, and the community of Nicaraguan Catholics have made the Sandinist military tyranny responsible for any direct or indirect personal aggression against Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

UNO and Catholic spokesmen said that there is religious persecution in Nicaragua reflected in the closing of the Catholic radio station, accusations against priests, and aggressions against Cardinal Obando y Bravo.

They added that they repudiate the (?sacrilegious) disrespect by the Sandinist regime through its Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, who insulted Obando y Bravo by calling him an accomplice to the crimes of the Reagan administration.

CASTRO, GORBACHEV HOLD CORDIAL MEETING IN MOSCOW

FL122110 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1202 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Mikhail Gorbechev, CPSU general secretary, met today in Moscow with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee. A brief note released today indicates that Castro is passing through Moscow on his way back to Cuba, and the meeting was characterized by understanding and cordiality.

CASTRO, KIM IL-SONG SIGN COOPERATION TREATY

FL120354 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] A friendship and cooperation treaty between the DPRK and Cuba has been signed in Pyongyang. It was signed by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and DPRK's highest leader Kim Il-song. The document says the expansion of all fraternal areas and solidarity between the two countries corresponds completely with the fundamental interests of the Korean and Cuban people.

The treaty also states that the two parties will maintain a systematic exchange of experiences in several areas of socialist construction and promote increased cooperation relations between political, social, and mass organizations from the two countries.

CASTRO THANKS KIM IL-SONG FOR HOSPITALITY

FL122134 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1903 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, has sent a message of appreciation to DPRK President Kim Il-song in which he expresses the Cuban delegation's gratitude for the warm friendship expressed during his visit to the DPRK. Having brotherly ties for more than 2 decades, Cuba and Korea have developed unbreakable fraternal ties and mutual solidarity that has strengthened with time, said the Cuban commander in chief's message.

Castro added that he has the Hero of the DPRK award as a constant reminder of that friendship, which includes a permanent commitment of indestructable solidarity between the two peoples, parties, and governments. Castro expressed his deep appreciation for the attention paid to the entire Cuban delegation by Korean leader Kim Il-song.

SOVIET DELEGATION MEETS WITH CTC LEADERS

FL102314 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1902 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] A Soviet delegation from the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions began a round of discussions today with leaders from the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] to analyze trade plans between the two organization. Vladimir Sergeyev, chief of international trade union relations [as heard] and of the Soviet delegation in Havana, spoke with Jesus Escandel, member of the CTC Secretariat, and Juan Augero, chief of the International Relations Department.

Other topics discussed during the meeting were exchange of delegations between the two trade union centers, emulation between enterprises and factories, and participation of Cuban leaders in Soviet schools.

The Soviet trade union delegation will tour centers of interest in Havana and Matanzas Provinces, meet with leaders, and participate in other activities.

NICARAGUA SIGNS 1986 COOPERATION AGREEMENT

FL121340 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The seventh meeting of the joint commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the Governments of Nicaragua and Cuba has ended with the signing of the program for this year by the presidents of both delegations. Ministers Henry Ruiz and Roberto Melendez signed the document, which summarizes agreements between Nicaragua and Cuba after 3 days of negotiations, characterized -- according to the final communique -- by the spirit of broad friendship and solidarity that corresponds to the relations between the two governments.

ARGENTINA, CUBA SIGN MARITIME AGREEMENT

FL110052 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Argentina and Cuba have signed an agreement allowing frequent maritime traffic between the two countries for transporting bilateral export and import merchandise. The agreement was signed in Buenos Aires and will allow frequent travel from 20-25 days in the maritime line that will unite Cuba and Argentina and includes transporting general merchandise, liquids, and grains.

The agreement was signed by Cuban Transportation Vice Minister Jesus Perez Bencomo and Argentine Transportation Deputy Secretary Pedro Truco.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONFERENCE OPENS IN HAVANA

FL102348 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1912 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Upon inaugurating the international sugar conference, which began today in Havana, (Gilberto Guerenna), vice minister of the Ministry of the Sugar Industry, MINAZ, said that Cuba is striving for diversification of its sugary industry. Attending the first international conference on the high efficiency, maintenance, and exploitation of the sugar industry are 60 foreign delegates and 300 Cuban delegates who will exchange technical and scientific information through 15 March.

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS OFFICIAL ON ECCLESIASTIC MEEING

PA130304 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Interview with Jose Felipe Carneado, chief of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Religious Affairs Office, by Radio Havana reporter Julio Dominguez, date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Dominguez] We are in the office of Dr Jose Felipe Carneado, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and chief of the Central Committee's Religious Affairs Office, who has kindly offered to answer some questions for Radio Havana. Dr Carneado, the Catholic Church has just completed the National Ecclesiastic Meeting of Cuba, after years of preparation. Could you give us your opinion of the meeting?

[Carneado] This meeting represents a commendable effort on the part of the Catholic Church in our country to join our socio-political reality. The meeting and its principles open a new chapter in relations between the state and the church in Cuba. We have read the working document which served as the guideline for the National Ecclesiastic Meeting of Cuba, and we definitely saw in it positive aspects which offer new and encouraging hope for the future of these relations. The working document drafted after discussions in the country's dioceses shows the intention, an intention which I call commendable, to progressively become part of our socio-political reality. This meeting represents one step forward in a substantial improvement in relations between the church and the Cuban state.

[Dominguez] How are relations between the established evangelical congregations in the country and the socialist state?

[Carneado] Relations with the evangelical congregations have always, as a general rule, been very good, very normal, without political confrontation, and we are very much interested in developing them further and maintaining them in the same spirit of understanding and cordiality.

[Dominguez] The Catholics are talking about a possible visit to Cuba by the pope. What can you tell us about this?

[Carneado] Well, not only Catholics, but newsmen all over the world are speculating about such a visit. I must tell you that so far this is not definite. However, we have not given up on the possibility of such a visit in the more or less near future. However, the pope's visit will not take place this year. We have learned that the pope will visit the United States in 1987, and based on this, speculation is that he could also visit our country. I repeat, a papal visit to Cuba is still possible, but there is nothing definite about the matter so far. As you realize, a visit of this nature, not just because he is the head of the church, but because he is the head of a state with which we have had diplomatic relations for more than 50 years, demands exquisite and careful preparation, so that both parties can enjoy the benefits of such a meeting.